

## I look forward to hearing from you!

Tell me your thoughts and opinions on the critical issues facing your neighborhood, King County and our region. Please take a moment to fill out the form below, place in an stamped envelope and send it in to me, or send me an email, [jane.hague@metrokc.gov](mailto:jane.hague@metrokc.gov). Please periodically check my web site for current news and information about District 11 at [www.metrokc.gov/hague](http://www.metrokc.gov/hague).

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your comments:** \_\_\_\_\_



Cut along the dotted line, place in a stamped envelope and mail to: Councilmember Jane Hague, 516 Third Ave, Room 1200, Seattle, Wa 98104

**Jane Hague**, Councilmember  
Metropolitan King County Council, District 11  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 296-1011, [jane.hague@metrokc.gov](mailto:jane.hague@metrokc.gov)

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**Councilmember Jane Hague**

# County Report

*Spring 2004*

METROPOLITAN  
KING COUNTY  
COUNCIL  
**DISTRICT 11**

Dear Neighbor:

After much discussion with the County, the City of Kirkland has decided to begin its annexation of your area and others near you in unincorporated King County. For those who do not know, annexation means that your neighborhood will become part of the city and no longer under the direct jurisdiction of the county on local issues.



Please visit my website @  
[www.metrokc.gov/hague](http://www.metrokc.gov/hague)

The areas targeted for annexation are: Finn Hill, Kingsgate and north Juanita neighborhoods – a total population of 35,000. It is my goal to provide you with information and resources to help you make an informed decision about annexation, as the residents must approve the annexation proposal.

Annexation will directly affect you and you need to know the facts when it comes time to provide the Kirkland City Council with your preferred action plan. Many things will change, but many services will remain unchanged. Please see inside this newsletter for a general listing of changes.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you on this issue and many others. Please feel free to contact me with questions at (206) 296-1011 or [jane.hague@metrokc.gov](mailto:jane.hague@metrokc.gov).

Warm Regards,



**King County**

## What is Annexation and how does it affect you?

Annexation occurs when an incorporated governmental entity, a city, takes over the responsibility from another governmental entity for providing local services to a specified area. The requirement to annex is derived from the Growth Management Act (GMA). GMA was enacted by the state legislature in 1990 in response to growth and development pressures in Washington State and it specified that the cities are the best providers of local urban services. GMA requires local governments of fast growing and densely populated (urban) areas to develop and adopt comprehensive plans in coordination with other, local jurisdictions.

King County provides regional services to 1.7 million residents countywide. Examples of regional services are elections, public health, the court system and Metro bus service. The county also provides local or city-level services to unincorporated areas – areas that do not belong to a city.

Currently, almost 353,000 county residents live outside of cities. When combined as one entity, this group of citizens represents a population equivalent of the second largest city in the state. As emphasized by the County Executive, this large group of unincorporated residents is spread throughout the county in small, pockets of neighborhoods. The county then loses the efficiencies that cities derive from serving one, consolidated mass of people, thus driving up the costs.

The County’s taxing authority differs from cities, and its unincor-

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porated pockets do not generate enough tax revenues to pay for what it costs to provide them with city-level services. Added to this problem is the County’s ongoing budget deficit. When faced with these competing service needs, the Executive determined that he must focus the majority of county funding on one set of services and that is regional services.

## How does this affect my taxes and services?

Information on taxes and services is being prepared by the Executive and by each annexation area. When we have it, we will send out additional information and post in on our District 11 website.

The following matrix is a list of services that will change and a list of services that will remain unchanged.

Service that would change:	Service would remain unchanged:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire</li><li>• Police</li><li>• Water</li><li>• Sewer</li><li>• Library</li><li>• Parks (local)</li><li>• District Court location</li><li>• Building &amp; Development</li><li>• Transportation (local)</li><li>• General Government</li><li>• Surface Water Management</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schools</li><li>• Regional Transit</li><li>• Criminal Justice</li><li>• Public Health</li><li>• Property Assessments</li><li>• Licensing</li><li>• Superior Court</li><li>• Elections</li></ul>

The County intends to make some improvements by the time your neighborhood is annexed and has set aside monies to help cities like Kirkland fund annexation. However, the specific improvement projects and funds transmitted would be determined through negotiations between Kirkland and King County.

## Juanita Woodlands have been saved

I am pleased to announce the **successful transfer of the Juanita Woodlands from the State Department of Natural Resources for permanent open space**. The ceremonial transfer took place on April 16<sup>th</sup>. My office partnered in the several year effort with the **Denny Creek Neighborhood Alliance**, the State DNR and the King County Executive. I am proud of this urban forest legacy and the opportunities it offers future generation. I hope you will continue to enjoy this unique greenbelt.



Hague officiates at the “signing” ceremony deep in Juanita Woodlands.

## News

In the interest of learning more from you, directly, I will be holding a Town Hall meeting on **Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am in Kirkland City Hall’s Peter Kirk Room and 1:30 pm at Bellevue City Hall’s Council Chambers**. State Senator, **Luke Esser**, will be joining me at the Kirkland meeting and State Representative, **Rodney Tom**, will join me at the Bellevue meeting. We look forward to talking to you about all of the issues listed in this newsletter. If possible, please forward your town hall questions by May 3<sup>rd</sup>, so that I may be fully prepared to assist you. You can either call my office at (206) 296-1011 or e-mail me at [jane.hague@metrokc.gov](mailto:jane.hague@metrokc.gov).

Please visit my website @ [www.metrokc.gov/hague](http://www.metrokc.gov/hague)